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Bee Friendly Gardening

A Program of Pollinator Partnership

June 2025



Lights Out for Lepidoptera: Helping Moths (and Your Garden) by Preserving the Night

Bee Redfield - Conservation Director, Pollinator Partnership

When we think about pollinators, it's easy to picture butterflies flitting around in daylight or bees gathering nectar under the sun. But there's an entirely different crew of pollinators that take over after dark—quietly, efficiently, and largely unnoticed. Among the most important? Moths.

These nighttime pollinators may not get the fanfare of their daytime counterparts, but they play an essential role in supporting native plants, feeding birds and bats, and helping gardens and wild spaces bloom. Unfortunately, their work is being disrupted by something as simple as the lights we leave on at night. (Photo by Tom Ress.)



[READ ARTICLE](#)

Member Benefits

Don't forget that your membership comes with a list of benefits – including access to the [members only webpage](#), where we post all of our member webinars after they premiere! Weren't able to make one? That's okay! Check out the [webinar tab](#) and find the one you missed, such as June's member webinar [Urban Biodiversity](#).



Speaking of urban biodiversity, we want to make you aware of this article by Dr. Gordon Frankie titled [Your Urban Garden is Better with Bees](#).

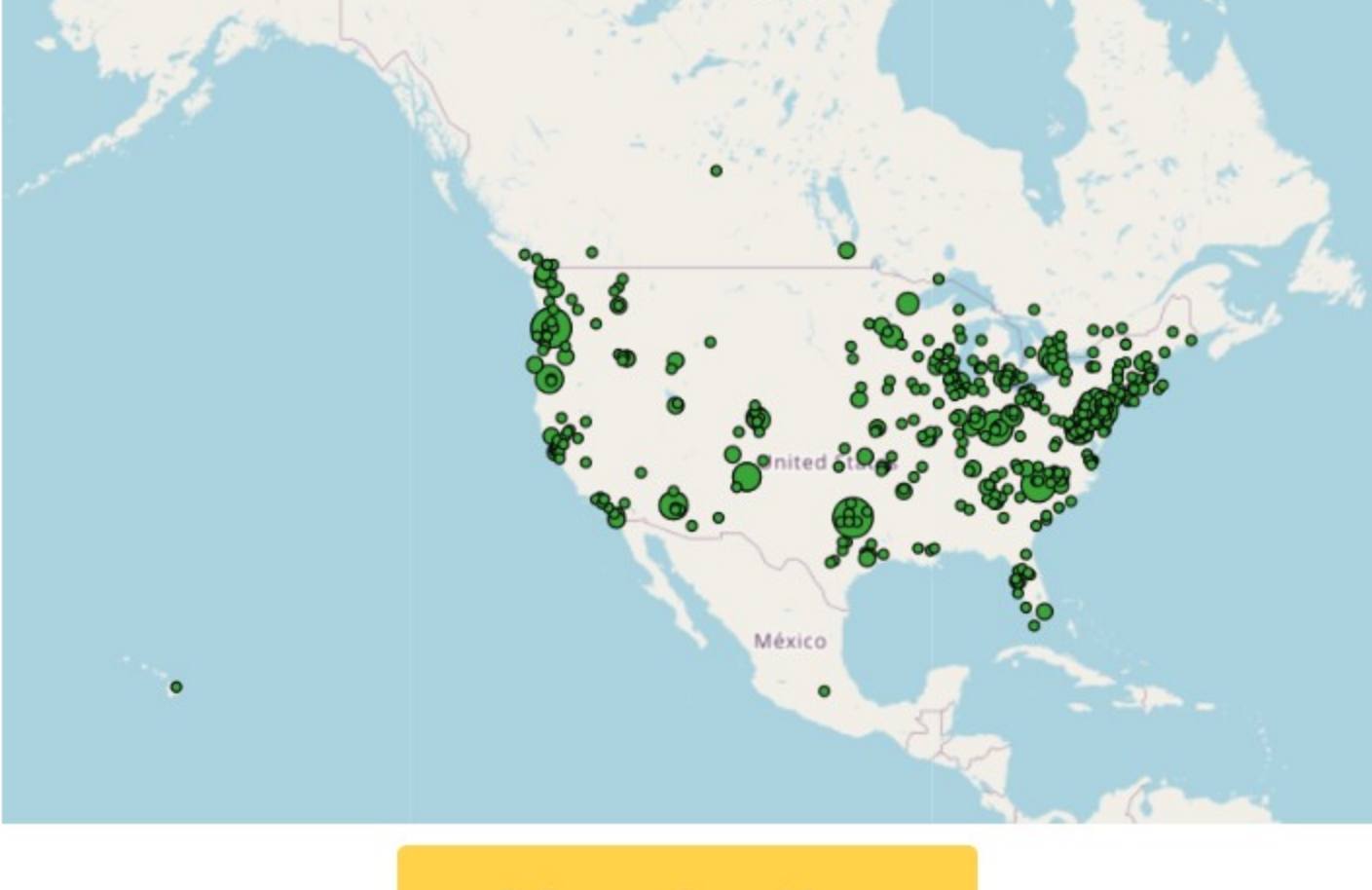


Don't miss this video by Becky Griffin (Great Southeast Pollinator Census) and Sara Wittenberg (Bee Friendly Gardening) discussing all the different types of pollinators!



Have You Registered Your Bee Friendly Garden?

Already have a Bee Friendly Garden but haven't registered it yet? Take this important next step and add your garden to our growing network of BFGs across North America! We will add it to our garden map, invite you to purchase a sign to show others what habitat can look like, and encourage you to join our iNaturalist project to document all of the pollinators using your BFG.



[REGISTER YOUR GARDEN](#)

Haven't built your BFG yet? Check out our new resource on components of a Bee Friendly Garden, and get started!



POLLINATOR GARDEN GUIDELINES

A pollinator garden supports wildlife and offers lasting enjoyment. Consider these key elements for building a Bee Friendly Garden.



Prioritize plants that are native to your region. Native plants have co-evolved with local pollinators, offering essential pollen and nectar while thriving in your climate with minimal watering and chemical inputs. Native plants will support the wonderful diversity of native pollinators that are indigenous to your area.



Include pollinator host plants. Many pollinators have evolved specialized relationships with particular plant species and depend on them to lay their eggs. A well-known example of this is the reliance of monarch butterfly larvae on milkweed.



Integrate a range of plants that provide food for pollinators from spring to fall. Early spring and late fall can be difficult times for pollinators to find blooming plants, despite being critical periods in many pollinators' lifecycles.

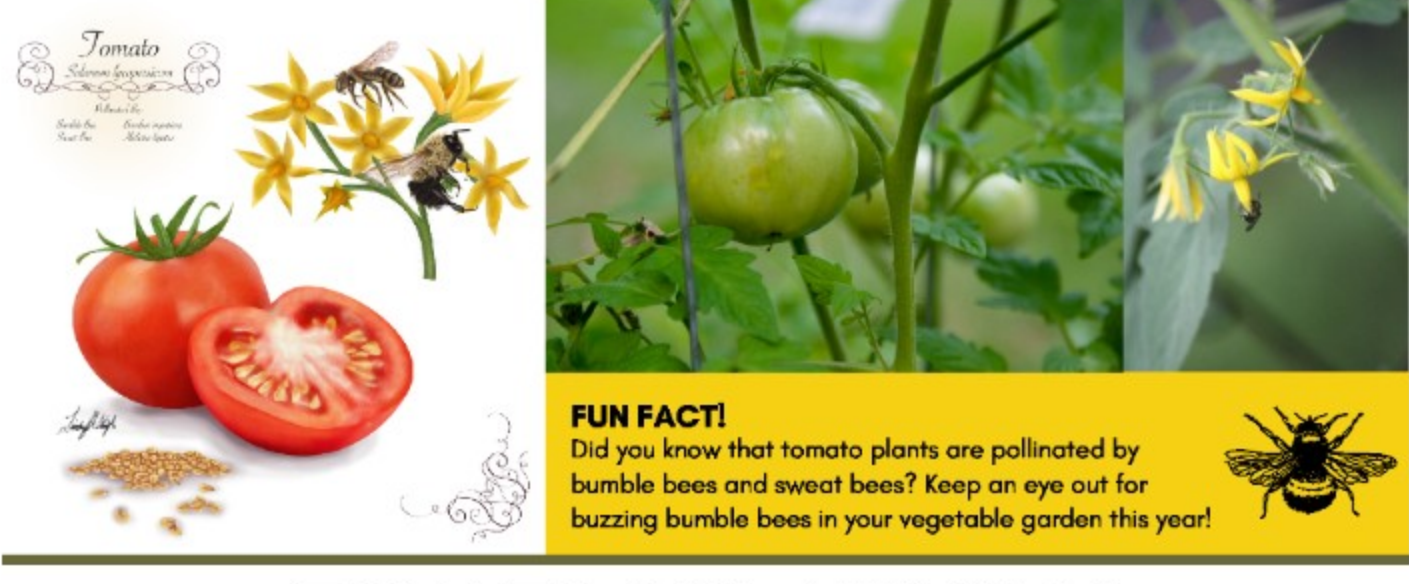
Leave bare soil patches, stems, and dead stalks as nesting space. While managed honey bees live in human-made hives, the vast majority of bee species nest underground, in plant stems, in old bottle barrels in wood, or in other natural cavities. Be inspired by nature to include some of these elements in your garden.

Avoid insecticides. Many insecticides can harm pollinators when they come into contact with them. Always read pesticide labels, follow pesticide restrictions (it's the label), and look for warnings that they may be harmful to bees.

[pollinator.org](#)

[BUILD YOUR BFG](#)

Tomato and Avocado Bruschetta



TOMATO AND AVOCADO BRUSCHETTA

by The Modern Proper


Ingredients

- 1 baguette, 1-inch slices at an extreme angle
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 2 (10 oz) containers cherry tomatoes, halved and seeded
- 1 tbsp white balsamic vinegar
- 3 small (or 1 large) glove of garlic, minced, divided
- 2 avocados
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 1/5 cup basil, minced, divided
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp pepper, freshly ground

Directions

1. Turn oven to broil.
2. Using a pastry brush, dab the bread slices with olive oil and sprinkle with garlic powder. Broil the bread slices for 4-5 minutes until golden brown. Remove from oven and set aside.
3. In a small bowl, mix the remaining olive oil (about 1/4 cup) with the seeded tomatoes, balsamic vinegar and half of the garlic. Set aside to let flavors mingle together.
4. In a separate bowl, mash the avocado. Mix in the remaining garlic, lemon juice, half of the basil, salt and pepper.
5. Spread each baguette slice with 1-2 tablespoons of avocado mixture. Evenly divide the tomatoes among the avocado toasts. Sprinkle with remaining basil and additional flake salt if desired.

PREP TIME: 25 MIN
COOK TIME: 5 MIN
YIELD: 10 SERVINGS



15

Want more pollinator-friendly recipes? Check out our [full cookbook](#).

[GET RECIPE](#)

My Favorite Native

Tell us all about your favorite native plant, why you love it, and what pollinators love it. If possible include a photo of the plant in your garden. We would love to feature your favorite in an upcoming BFG newsletter. Simply email bfg@pollinator.org

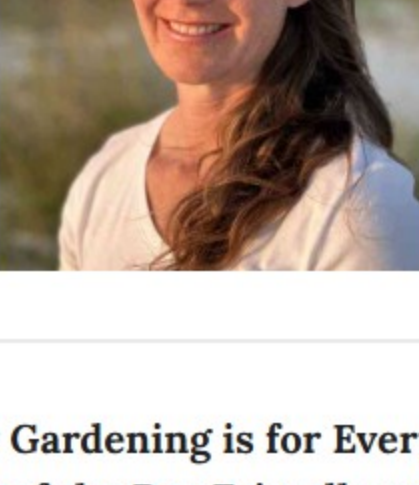
This year I'm adding blazing star (*Liatris*) to my garden. These beautiful pops of purple are favorites to butterflies like the pipevine swallowtail. (Photo by Andy Grinstead.)



Notable Dates:

- July - Smart Irrigation Month
- July 28 - World Nature Conservation Day
- July 19-27 [National Moth Week](#)

Thank you from Sara Wittenberg, your Bee Friendly Gardening Manager



Bee Friendly Gardening is for Every Landscape!
Be a part of the Bee Friendly movement.



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